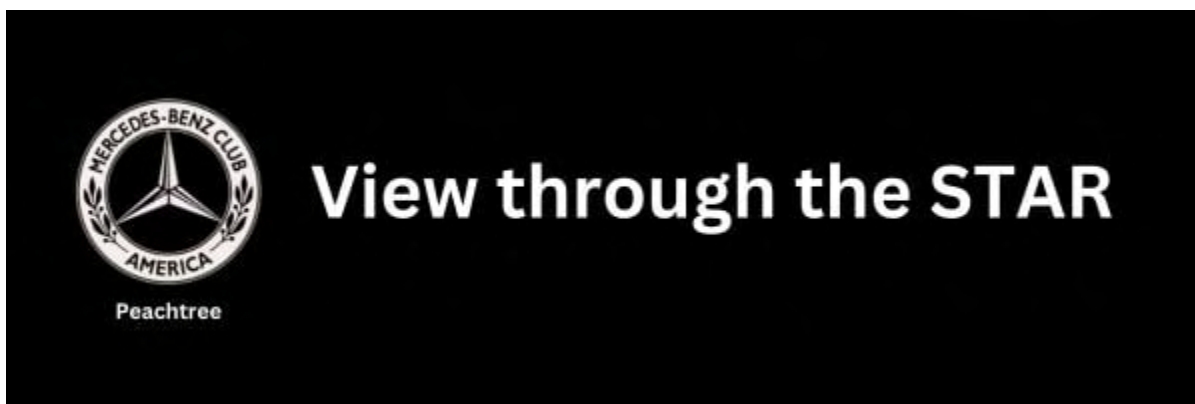




Volume 46 - Vol 3 | June 2024



ATLANTA STAR SUMMIT - OCTOBER 2024





by Rubin Howard, Peachtree President

I have been meaning to ask you, what does being a club member mean to you? Our national organization has been going through some large structural changes that I think are for the better of the club. Between modernizing bylaws, restructuring board positions, re-evaluating the importance of marketing and social media, and rebuilding the website from the ground up with new functions and features, I think we are aligning our club for a successful future. Down south at MBCA Peachtree, we are continuously looking for ways to bolster our club and improve what we do. As President, I am proud to see that we have such a dedicated board of directors who are motivated by not only the love for their car, but their connection to MBCA Peachtree as well. We are able to put on great events thanks to our incredible sponsors such as our Cars & Coffee and mountain drives. We are working on offering more curated virtual events and panel discussions.

Atlanta is home to Mercedes-Benz, and now home to **Star Summit** - MBCA Peachtree's largest event of the decade. MBCA Peachtree will start the weekend off with a Tech Session at DC Motorwerks on Friday afternoon. Friday evening a curated automotive and *Horology Exhibition + Cocktail Party* featuring the Atlanta watch society will be held at the Mercedes-Benz Experience Center. This by invitation-to-show event will feature a curated display of Mercedes-Benz history whilst inviting watch enthusiasts to display, network, and mingle while enjoying *hors d'oeuvres* and drinks. [Read More About Star Summit](#)

I hope everyone is as excited as I am for this fantastic regional event. We expect to draw crowds from across the country to this incredible event. Registration links will open shortly, and I invite each of you to attend. If you are looking to sharpen your driving skills prior to Star Summit, Gary Edwards is hosting an extremely affordable MBCA Driving Academy event on July 20th (a step-down from performance driving) that will allow you to become more comfortable with your vehicle and explore what your vehicle was built to do.



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Member Spotlight - Steve Hegysi





by Marisa Hegysi

Stephen (“Steve”) was born in Landau on der Isar, Germany. His father was Hungarian and his mother German. The family immigrated through Ellis Island when Steve was five. They were sponsored by a Houston church, until his Dad could get recertified in the USA as a veterinarian. Steve grew up in the Houston/Galveston area.

He is turning 76 this year and has been married to his wife, Marisa, for 33 years. He knew her since she was 8, because of hanging out with her older brother and sister. Steve has four daughters from an earlier marriage, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. [Read More about Steve](#)

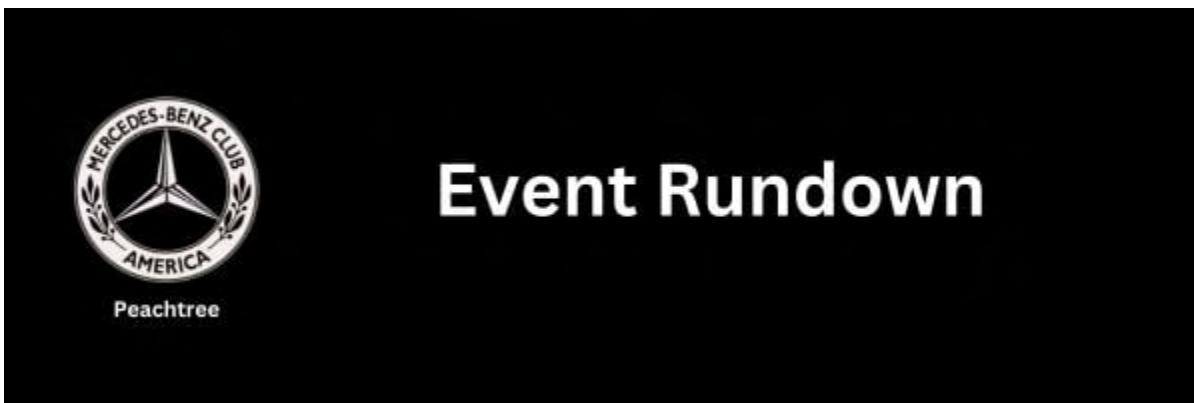
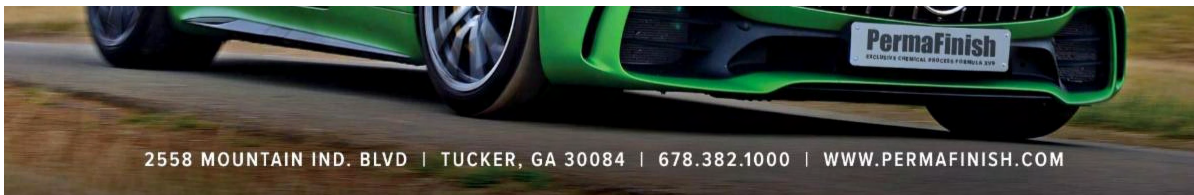
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June Events

6/8 - 6/9 | Roebing Road Test & Tune | [register](#) | [map](#)

6/9 | Race Day at the Benz | [register](#) | [map](#)

6/22 | June Mountain Run | [register](#) | [map](#)

July Events

7/6 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

7/13 | Member Appreciation | [register](#) | [map](#)

7/20 | MBCA Driving Academy Driving Skills Training | [register](#) | [map](#)

August Events

8/3 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

8/10 | Mountain Drive | *watch for details*

8/24 | Talladega Gran Prix HPDE | [register](#) | [map](#)

September Events

9/7 | Cars and Coffee | *watch for details* | [map](#)

October Events


10/3 - 10/7 | Star Summit | *registration will open soon* | [map](#)
10/18 - 10/20 | Return to the Dragon Fall Drive | [register](#) | [map](#)



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Peachtree

Membership

Welcome NEW Members

- Lemie Bales
- Gilles Blanchette
- Norman Cohen
- William Cook

- James Dewberry
- William Donohue
- Mark Grant
- Larry Hodge
- Michael Hogenmiller
- Rolf Martin-Hoster
- Craig Miller
- Richard Moore
- Noel Tyler

Thanks to our RENEWING Members!

Alan Bremer, Cameron Davis, Ron Dubler, Rusty Duncan, John Eagleson, Bob Edmond, Gary Edwards, Alan Granath, Patrick Halpin, Reuel Hamilton, Leland Harwood, Ken Hedrick, Chris James, Irvin Johnson, Michael Latino, Mel Levine, Steve MacArthur, Marques McMillan, Roger Miller, Kelly O'Brien, Everett Price, John Race, Dietmar Schmid, Moe Shafer, William Spurlock II, Robert Taylor, Tim Thomas, Harrison Young, Edina White

By Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

Peachtree Section has 440 memberships at the end of April 2024. Peachtree Section is one of the most active sections within the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We organize a large variety of events members can participate. We have again scheduled interesting event throughout the whole year. Please check the event calendar in this Newsletter and register to attend for an upcoming event. Attending club events is the best way to meet members that share your interest in Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

When it becomes time to renew your membership, I want to bring up that the MBCA website system has been updated and the renewal of the membership differs from the old system. You can renew your membership on-line by logging into Glueup or into MBCA.org and renew from your Profile (Membership) or just simply proceed your renewal from the MBCA reminder email. You can also call the MBCA National Business Office directly at 719.633.6427 Tues-Thurs 9 am - 3 pm MT and renew over the phone.

One easy way to ensure that your membership stays active is to simply say Yes to Auto-Renew option when renewing your membership.






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Technical Digest

Convertible Top Issues – 2002 CLK55 Cabriolet (A208)

by Gary Edwards, Technical Advisor

Different car this time – a 2002 CLK55 cabriolet (A208). A somewhat simpler arrangement than on an R129, with only 7 hydraulic cylinders compared to the 11 or 12 on the 129. This car also has a bypass on the

hydraulic pump that you are supposed to open to manually operate the trunk. Thankfully I have not had too many issues with this top, but the latest one gave me a learning point I thought would be worth sharing.

But first, I'll mention the first problem I had with the top. Shortly after I bought the car, I started getting a top alarm when the top was up. This is intended to tell you that the top isn't properly locked in place, which just might be an issue while driving..... I was able to determine the fault only by hooking up a Mercedes specific scanner (a Foxwell NT530 with Mercedes software installed). Since the fault only occurred when the car was moving, I had to drive the car with the scanner hooked up to see the fault. [Read More on the 2002 CLK55 Cabriolet Top Issues](#)

SPECIAL TIRE & WHEEL PRICING FOR CLUB MEMBERS

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FOUR-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

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Time to Renew?

Renewing your Membership is EASY!

1. Renew from the email reminder that comes in your email *
2. Log into your MBCA account and Renew from your Membership profile *
3. Mail a check to the National Business Office:
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
10 Boulder Crescent St, Suite 200
Colorado Springs CO 80903
4. Call the National Business Office and renew over the phone Tues-Thurs:
9 am - 3 pm MT Phone: 719.633.6427

* 60 days before membership expiration, must log into mbca.org

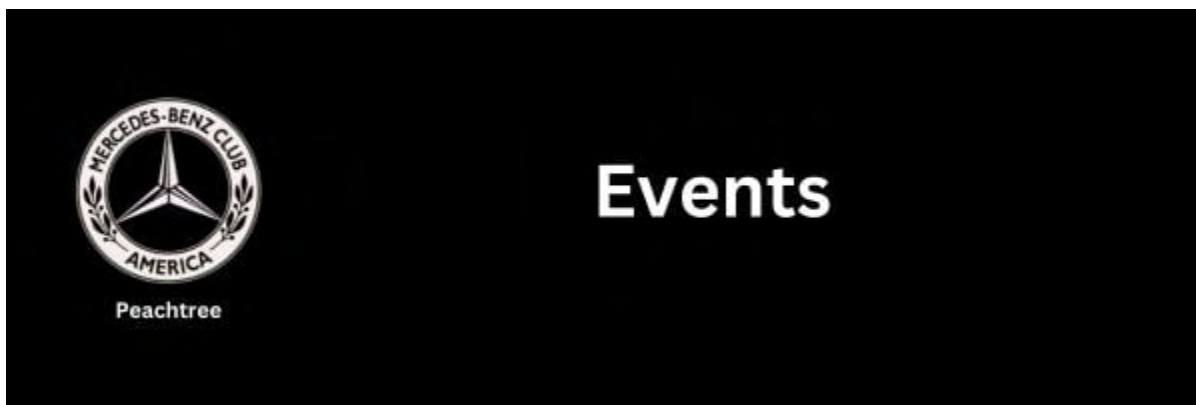
Logging into your Glue Up Account with your MBCA login credentials. If you have not established your MBCA login, you can easily register by clicking on "Register". ⚠️ *If the system warns you that the email is already linked to an existing Glue Up account and you forgot your password, click "forgot password" to recover it before logging in.*

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**20th
anniversary**

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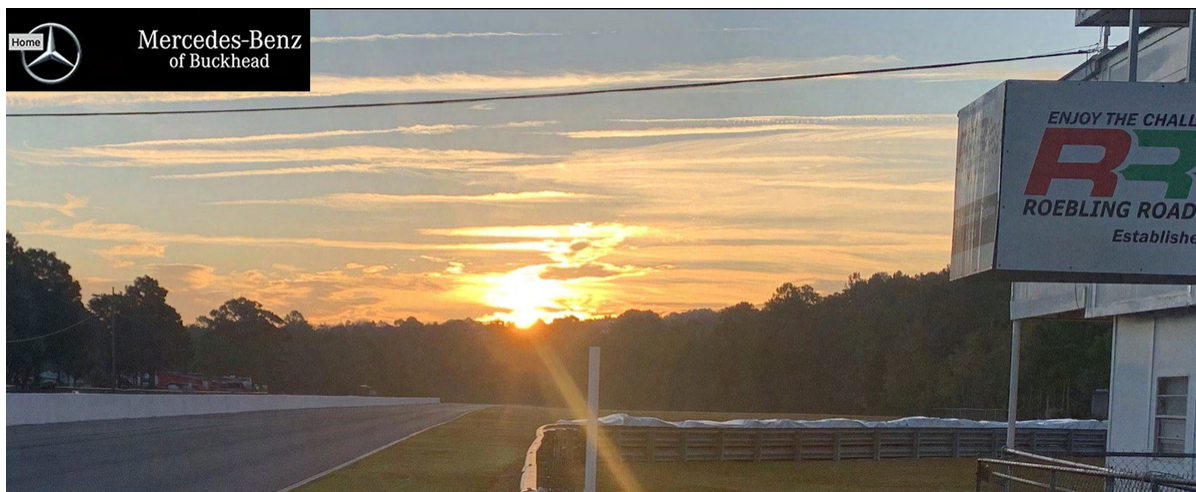
As we approach our 20th anniversary, we
continue to stay committed to providing
you with quality service at a fair price



Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead Driving Experience

TEST & TUNE WEEKEND - JUNE 8 AND 9, 2024

DRIVING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND - NOV 9 AND 10, 2024



Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead Driving Experience Weekend at Roebling Road Raceway ([1135 Roebling Road Bloomingdale, Georgia 31302](#)); **Test and Tune** will be held on Saturday and Sunday June 8 and 9th 2024. The **Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead Driving Experience** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2024. Performance driving

enthusiasts mark your calendars and signup now!

Test and Tune Weekend is for **experienced drivers only** that have had past track time. Please reach out if you have any questions! No instructors, full open track all day and passing allowed! You must contact Kevin Ingold at kingold@mercedesofbuckhead.com or by phone at **770.778.4511** first before signing up for this event. Cost is \$1,000 per driver. Space is limited to 25 drivers.

REGISTER FOR TEST & TUNE WEEKEND

The Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead Driving Experience Weekend at Roebling Road will be Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2024. Experience the true performance of your vehicle in a controlled environment on a closed course. Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead will have experienced instructors on hand to teach you the basics of performance driving and vehicle control. No prior experience is required. This will be an HPDE event; with a VIP experience! We will also have on hand our technicians in case of any issues. Our event will also include dinner per driver at The Chart House on Saturday night, with open bar. November 9, 2024. Driver guests may attend dinner for an additional fee. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all drivers both days. VIP covered parking is first come with only 10 spots available. Fee is per Driver not vehicle. All makes and models vehicles are allowed, except open wheel and SUV vehicles. This event is a unique experience compared to most other track days. You will have a full open track for 8 hours per day! Approximately 15 technicians on hand to take care of your vehicle. No slot times, complete open with instructors. Cost is \$1,600 per driver for the weekend. Space is limited to 25 drivers.

REGISTER FOR DRIVING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead is offering a combo package for both weekends for \$2,000 per driver.

REGISTER FOR BOTH WEEKENDS

Nothing says Mercedes-Benz

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MercedesOfBuckhead.com
(800) 399-5856



Mooountain Run

Saturday June 22

Cleveland Mountain Fresh Creamery | Clairmont GA

Dietmar Schmid, Event Planner

After the wonderful tour to three vineyards in May we will have a “less proof” tour in June. The tour starts at 9:45 am at the Cleveland Mountain Fresh Creamery | The Silo.

After the tour we will head to Helen for lunch at at the Bodensee Restaurant.

After lunch we will hit the road passing the Vogel State Park to enjoy the winding road and cross the mountains and the Appalachian Trail. The last stop will be at Lake Zwerner parking close to Dahlonega.

REGISTER MOOOUNTAIN RUN

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION
SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024
12:30 pm - 2 pm

Jane Brown and Tom Lammert
 Event Planners



All Peachtree Section members are invited to bring one guest to the 2024 Free Member Appreciation Barbecue! Children under the age of 10 may attend free.

The group shelter at Red Top Mountain State Park is a fully enclosed, air-conditioned building and includes kitchen facilities, and free parking. The back deck overlooks Lake Allatoona.

MBCA DRIVING ACADEMY
Driving Skills Training
SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024

Gary Edwards, Event Planner



MBCA Driving Academy at Columbia County Sheriff's Training Facility in Appling, Georgia on July 20th. New and Experienced Drivers will learn car control skills and have fun too! We'll cover ABS braking, emergency avoidance maneuvers, transient vehicle dynamics, skid recovery and recovery from dropping a wheel off the road.

Formerly called Urban Survival

We'll enjoy a full menu of home-made, traditional barbecue fare: BBQ pulled pork, Brunswick stew, molasses baked beans, several salads, walnut brownies, and beverages.

REGISTER

Training and Safe Driver Safe Family training, completion of this course will likely lower your insurance bill too. Since this is our first running of this event, we're limiting participation to 20 people. **Sign up now!**

REGISTER

Talladega Gran Prix HPDE Saturday, August 24, 2024

Gary Edwards, Event Planner



More fun at the track – get the most out of your Mercedes! On Saturday Aug 24th, we'll return to Talladega Gran Prix Raceway in Munford Alabama for a one-day High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) co-hosted by Peachtree and Alabama/NW Florida.

Event planner and instructor Gary Edwards comments, "I love this place, it's a wonderful track for novices, only 5 turns in 1.4 miles

Return to the Dragon October 18-20, 2024

Diana Quinn, Event Planner



Our Harold Wilson Memorial Fall Drive will return to the Murphy/Robbinsville North Carolina area to drive the **Tail of the Dragon** and the **Cherohala Skyway**. If you are unfamiliar with the "*Tail of the Dragon*", this road is famous for its 318 curves in 11 miles.

We will start our adventure on Friday October 18th arriving in Murphy, North Carolina for a optional tour of the John C.

with minimal elevation changes and wide, smooth runoff areas, but challenging enough to be fun for advanced drivers; not sure I've ever gotten turn 3 right". We will provide both classroom and in-car instruction. You don't have to drive a Mercedes and you don't have to be a member.

Only \$300. Also offering the Performance Driving Experience (PDE) \$100 which includes classroom and highway speed on-track instruction. We also need volunteers for this event, contact Gary directly at gary@gwedwards.org.

REGISTER

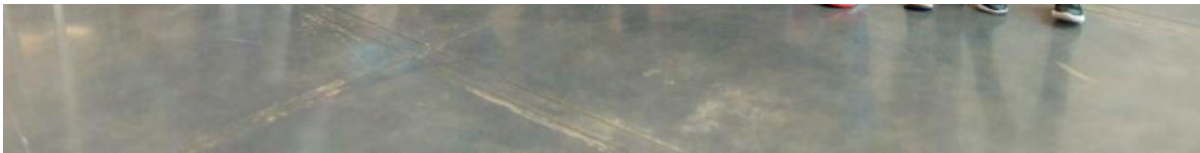
Campbell Folk School. After which we will gather for dinner in Murphy, NC.

Saturday, choose your own adventure as to whether you will want to drive the "Dragon" first and then the Cherohala, or drive the Cherohala and finish your drive on the "Dragon". Regardless of your choice you will ultimately find yourself in Tellico Plains Tennessee for lunch. Return back to Murphy via the alternate route to join the group for dinner.

Click the REGISTER button for hotel booking information and to register for this fun filled weekend!

REGISTER





Mercedes-Benz USA and Atlanta Falcons' Bijan Robinson Team Up with Little Free Library

Atlanta April 24, 2024 – Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) employees and Atlanta Falcons player Bijan Robinson joined forces with nonprofit organization Little Free Library to build 175 book-sharing boxes, which will be filled with thousands of donated books and installed in communities across the country that have limited access to reading materials, including communities in Atlanta. Little Free Library aims to promote literacy and community engagement by offering free access to books through small, publicly accessible book-sharing stations. Users are encouraged to take a book they are interested in reading and leave a book they have finished for others to enjoy, fostering a continuous cycle of reading and sharing within their neighborhood.

[READ MORE](#)

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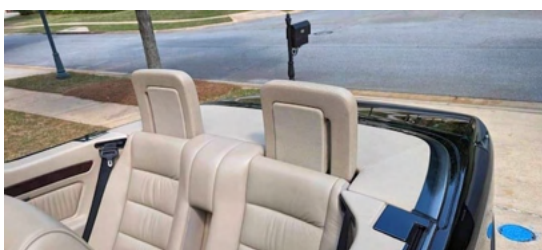
Peachtree

Market Platz

1994 E320 Cabriolet



1994 Mercedes E320 cabriolet. 129,000 original miles, Silver Star badged, unrestored, original. Very clean with several trophies won. Since new, serviced either by a MB dealer or a MB independent mechanic. Service records and all original manuals are intact. Newer top and the hydraulics have been rebuilt. Rear headrests/ rollbars work. AC works well. Car runs and rides smoothly. The factory 6 CD changer in the trunk is not working. This car was used in a [Video](#) production by Atlanta United when they introduced their new uniforms last year. Asking \$19,000. Contact Daryl Williams. dwilli3038@aol.com



W123 PARTS

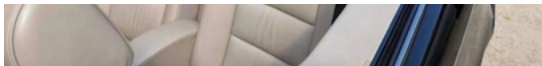


TRANSMISSION. 200,000 miles. MB 300TD Transmission used and all gears fully functional until end of October 2023. In addition to the transmission, an oil cooler return pipe and a deep stick pipe are included. \$700



BRAKE CALIPERS. Original ATE brake calipers front and rear with brake hoses between three and three-and-a-half years old. MB brake pads front and rear only a couple of miles old. Brake calipers sold in pairs ONLY. \$250 a pair.






NISSEN RADIATOR OEM.
Bought at MBS Motors on March 9, 2022. \$100

If you are interested, please contact Geri Whaley-Ewers by email

geraldina.whaley@yahoo.com

or by phone 770-558-1219.

Please, no text messaging.

Event News



ROAD LESS TRAVELED

MOUNTAIN DRIVE

MAY 11, 2024






by **Ernie Smallman III and Brett Butler, Event Planners**

May 11, 2024 - Nineteen Mercedes Benz autos occupied by club members and guests traveled to Cleveland, GA after a breakfast courtesy of D. C. Motorwerks accompanied by B & B Bronx assortment of bagels and cream cheese. Participants were treated to a specialty chocolate square snack at Yonah Mountain Vineyards and Winery plus imbibed in unique wine (either Peach or Sangria) slushies at Cottage Vineyard and Winery. The adventure was topped off by a description and tasting of five wines produced at Serenity Vineyards and Winery. Attendees brought their lunch and dined al fresco while enjoying the wine and entertainment. It was a perfect day for a drive in the North Georgia mountains.

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Kings Bay Sub Tour - May 14, 2024



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Peachtree Chapter, MBCA Officers and Board of Directors and Leadership Support Members

Rubin Howard

president@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com

Brett Butler

secretary@mbcapeachtree.com

Jim Fekete

treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

Gary Edwards

(Ex-Officio)

exofficio@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com

Reijo Haarla

Sam Kamber

Joseph Ruda Jr.

Past presidents

Steve Chapman

Ernie Smallman

JoAnne Taylor

Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership

membership@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan - Sponsors

sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com

Gary Edwards - Technical

technical@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Webmaster

webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com

Director at Large

Will Coloma

Dietmar Schmidt

Events

events@mbcapeachtree.com

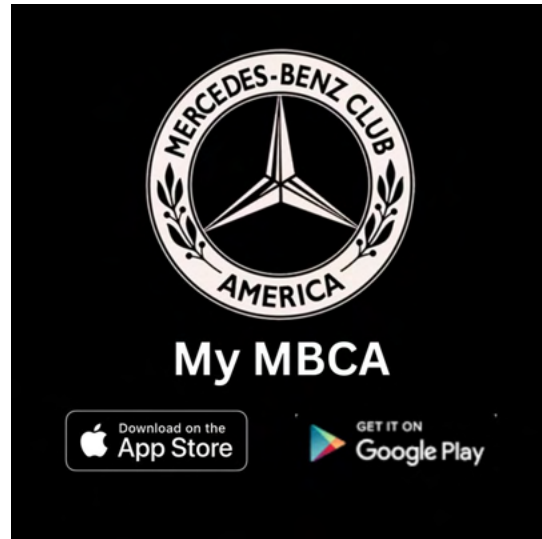
Rusty Duncan

Rubin Howard

Gary Edwards

Jim Fekete

For information or questions about the Peachtree Section, please contact us at 770-376-0669.



Your MBCA Membership card is now in the **My MBCA** mobile app (Available for IOS and Andriod).

- Log into the app with your MBCA email and password. To set/reset your password go to www.mbca.org > Login > Forgot Password
- Select the **Mercedes-Benz Club of America** organization
- Click on **Profile**
- Click on **Memberships**

***TIP:** Take a screen shot of your membership card and save to your photos in your phone*

Eastern Regional Director

Diana Quinn

mbcadirectoreasternregion@gmail.com

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